ZAMI
STRATEGIC PLANNING
MAY 11, 2000

SISTAHS IN ATTENDANCE: Carla, Iris, Fiona, BJ, Frances, Sylvia, Edith, Mary Anne, Corrigan, Sandra, Akwe, Virginia

WEBSITE IS COMPLETE!!! www.zami.org
Wendy, the creator of the website, has gone to every search engine and has included numerous links. ZAMI will maintain the website ourselves. Wendy has given us a book of instructions on how to do so. We also have a calendar. If you would like to post an e-mail or download a calendar---host: zami / password: audre. We can edit the guestbook if someone writes something that we don't like. Akwe asked about a contact person for the website.

AGENDA---Mary Anne has requested that we download an agenda for ourselves from the website before coming to the meeting.

OFFICE SPACE---
Virginia Highland Baptist Church is a possibility. Also Mary Anne contacted Kecia Cunningham for leads but she did not know of anything.

NONPROFIT STATUS (501c3 status)
Mary Anne met with Wendy Belkin, tax attorney, regarding our 501c3 status. If we can file by June 1, we could have it by July. Once we complete an application, Wendy will review it. There is also a $500 filing fee.

INCORPORATION---
ZAMI was incorporated in 1995 but we have not received annual billing statements. It costs $15/ year to keep current and ZAMI owes $45 to become current with the Secretary of State.

CHECKS RECEIVED---
The First Existentialist Congregation (First E) sent $578.30 our profits from "What Speaks In the Blood". Rent has already been taken out. The letter accompanying the check thanked us and the playwright looks forward to working with us again.
Linda Bell, Director of Women's Studies at Georgia State sent us $200.

DONATIONS FROM THE BOARD---

In November, we committed to donate at least $100 apiece to fund the Scholarship. If you don't have the entire amount, you can pay in installments up until August 15. Mail to P. O. Box 2502, Decatur, GA 30030 and make check out to ZAMI or the Fund for Southern Communities.

BUDGET---
$1598.77 in our checking account at Bond. $300 in our account at Emory. $800 to be paid to Simone for her scholarship.

STRATEGIC PLANNING----
We then discussed strategic planning for the rest of the meeting with Carla as the facilitator. We identified the following as needing to be discussed: BOARD MEMBER ROLES—ZAMI Line Maintenance, Reception, Marketing, Grantwriting, Website Maintenance, E-mail, Fundraising. PROJECTS---Office Space, Quarterly or Monthly Collaborations, ZAMI Scholarship application, Brochures, Direct Mail, Bookkeeping, Annual Budget, Support group, Nonprofit Status, Fundraising Ideas, Volunteer Base. Mary Anne stated that we need to generate ways to raise money. Finding volunteers to host house parties is one suggestion.

REINSTATE SUPPORT GROUP---Mary Anne said that we don't realize the magnitude of calls that she receives from women requesting that the support group be reinstated. One call was from a young woman 15 or 16 who wanted to meet other African- American lesbians in her age group that she was not meeting at YouthPride. Also a 50 year old woman calls Mary Anne daily wanting a support group. There are calls from other organizations stating that they are called by women wanting to meet other African-American lesbians but they don't know where to go. When Sylvia was new in town and looking for the community, Mary Anne was a lifeline for her. Corrigan stated that when she arrived in Atlanta from NY she saw ZAMI listed in the Southern Voice. Mary Anne and ZAMI have also been lifelines for her. What were we looking for when we came to ZAMI?

Mary Anne envisions three support groups: one for women 40 and older, one for women 18-39, and one for women younger than 18. What about space? Mary Anne said that we could use YouthPride's space on Sunday.

PROS AND CONS--Iris reminded us of the reasons that we stopped ZAMI's support group in 1997. Women had needs that we thought that we could not meet. We said that we could not be all things to all people and we spread ourselves thin. Carla also reminded us that we were in a lot of pain around the burden of the support group. Mary Anne countered by

saying that we don't have to rethink our mission. We can just add to it. We were not effective managers of ZAMI at the time. Virginia stated that Afrekete was helped by collaborating with ZAMI/ YouthPride, etc. and felt that we need a support group. Sylvia asked if it was necessary to have three groups? Why not have a sister-circle?----a group support group to start. When it starts to take off, women who are coming into the group can become facilitators. Frances countered by saying that 50 year olds and 18 year olds have different agendas.

Corrigan, Virginia, and Mary Anne volunteered to facilitate support groups.

VOLUNTEER BASE---We need volunteers to carry out our projects, such as maintaining our website, e-mail list serve, reaching out to women without a computer. Mary Anne got an e-mail from Vickie Braxton, formerly active in the ZAMI support group who wants to head a group of volunteers. Carla reminded us that the thing that keeps volunteers interested is that they need to feel that they are a part of ZAMI and suggested that they "get something" as a member, e.g. discounts at ZAMI events. We could ask volunteers to pay dues and make an investment in the organization. We need a Membership Committee to outline the benefits of becoming a member.

FUNDRAISING---HOUSE PARTIES---We need to raise money for our scholarship awards for 2001 and also to underwrite the organization. The Women's Studies Director in Kentucky is interested in raising money and talking about the ZAMI Scholarship Fund to her students. Sylvia volunteered to host a house party in a city in which she travels frequently. Mary Anne suggested a video tape about ZAMI---who we are, what we do. Carla has connections with a business in Dunwoody that could help us create a video. The video could also be used for grantwriting.

BLACK GAY PRIDE---We need to have a fundraiser at Black Gay Pride. Mary Anne has spoken to Melanie, one of the organizers of Black Gay Pride regarding space at the Renaissance Hotel for our Fundraiser.

DATE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP WEEKEND---SEPTEMBER 22, 23, 24.

COLLABORATIONS---

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We collaborate with the following monthly~~~Phillip Rush~~~Pride in Nonprofits, Charis, ALCI. We have not been providing a safe space lately for African-American lesbian writers of color which we have a reputation for doing. Frances mentioned collaborating with the Creative Writing Program at Georgia State. Mary Anne stated that the Georgia Equality Project is hosting an Internalized Homophobia Workshop and want us to collaborate. Mary Anne also mentioned a possible collaboration with the Stonewall Democrats and Kecia Cunningham.

BJ discussed the Triangle Network which wants to give ZAMI an award and wants a scholarship recipient to be at the ceremony to receive the award. A vigorous discussion ensued. Iris, Mary Anne, and Frances talked to the representative from Triangle Network and thought that what she was asking for felt "murky", like "quid pro quo". They did not trust her. BJ countered by saying that she still wants to give ZAMI an award for our work in the community and wants nothing in return. Mary Anne did not like to idea of the Triangle Network using our name. We voted by secret ballot on whether or not to accept the award. The verdict was an overwhelming "no" 8 to 2. Iris will write a letter of "thanks but no thanks" to the Triangle Network.

THANK YOU ALL FOR ATTENDING.

Edith, Interim Secretary

yard

4/10

8 until

EDITA Sylvia Virginia

730 930 7am Sandra

930 930 10pm 10-12

~~730~~

~~Fran~~

Frances Con Cindy

~~930~~ 730 930am 1230-close

Chris

Water 12-2pm